

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system of a communications network communicating between a plurality of client computers and a virtualized plurality of network-attached store computers, said system comprising:

an internal communications network;

a plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers connected to said plurality of client computers via a plurality of external communication networks,

wherein said communication virtualizer combines multiple Ethernet packets received from a client computer into a jumbo packet,

~~wherein a data size of said multiple Ethernet packets received exceeds that of a maximum size supported by a Network File System (NFS) protocol, and~~

wherein a data size of said jumbo packet exceeds that of said maximum size supported by said Network File System NFS protocol;

a plurality of network-attached store computers connected to said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers via said internal communications network and to an internal storage network of a plurality of storage devices,

wherein said plurality of network-attached store computers are configured to appear as a single available network-attached store computer, corresponding to said virtualized plurality of network-attached store computers,; and

~~said client computer being connected to said communication virtualizer,~~

wherein said a client computer sends requests for sending a request to access storage, addresses said request to one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers, said one of said plurality of communication virtualizers routing said request to one or more of said plurality of network-attached computers for storing,

wherein said ~~requests for storage are~~ request is transmitted as a series of standard Ethernet packets, each packet comprising a portion of the request for storage, and said data size

for said series of standard Ethernet packets exceeds that of said maximum size supported by said ~~NRS-NFS~~ protocol,

wherein said packets comprising a similar request for storage are linked together using a request identifier and a packet sequence number and,

wherein each request for storage comprises a unique request identifier that is shared among said packets comprising said similar request; and

a plurality of external connection paths for facilitating direct communication between said network-attached store computers and said client computer,

wherein said plurality of virtualizers implement communications translation between said plurality of client computers accessing said plurality of network-attached store computers, and

wherein said communications translation comprises any of:

translation from one network-attached store protocol to a different network-attached store protocol;

translation from a connection-oriented network attached store protocol to a packet-oriented network-attached store protocol; and

translation from a packet-oriented network-attached store protocol to a connection-oriented network-attached store protocol.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

an internal network of connection nodes connecting said plurality of communication virtualizer virtualizers with said plurality of network-attached store computers;

a computer system providing network attached store service according to a Network File System protocol,

a plurality of communications network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal communications network, and

a plurality of storage network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal storage network.

3-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising Ethernet networking hardware and medium access protocols for facilitating communication within said communication network.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising a Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol suite for facilitating communication between said plurality of network-attached store computers and said plurality of client ~~computer~~ computers.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising a storage access protocol for facilitating communication between a storage component within said communications network and remaining components within said communications network.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network~~ system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers comprises a network router.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~communications network~~ system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication virtualizer file switch connected to a client computer and a server computer for sending requests from one of said plurality of client ~~computer~~ computers to ~~said a~~ a network-attached store computer and from said network-attached store computer back to said one of said plurality of client ~~computer~~ computers.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~communication over a communications network~~ communicating between a plurality of client computers and a virtualized plurality of network-attached store computers, said method comprising:

~~sending requests for~~ a request to access storage, originated by ~~[[a]] one of said plurality of client computer over said computers~~, via a plurality of external communications ~~network networks~~, to one of said plurality of communication virtualizers,

~~wherein said requests comprise~~ a communication virtualizer combines multiple standard Ethernet packets received from a client computer into a jumbo packet, and

~~wherein each of said requests has a data size exceeding that of a maximum size supported by a Network File System (NFS) protocol~~

wherein a data size of said jumbo packet exceeds that of said maximum size supported by said NFS protocol;

~~receiving said requests for~~ request to access storage in a ~~by one of said plurality of communication virtualizer~~ virtualizers, said one of said plurality of communication virtualizers routing said request to one or more of said plurality of network-attached store computers via an internal connection network, said plurality of network-attached store computers being connected to an internal storage network of a plurality of storage devices,

~~wherein said communication virtualizer combines multiple standard Ethernet packets received from said client computer into a jumbo packet,~~

~~wherein a data size of said multiple standard Ethernet packets received exceeds that of a maximum size supported by a Network File System (NFS) protocol, and~~

~~wherein a data size of said jumbo packet exceeds that of said maximum size supported by said NFS protocol;~~

~~transmitting the received requests for storage to a plurality of network-attached store computers connected to said communication virtualizer, wherein said plurality of network-attached store computers are configured to appear as a single network-attached store computer, wherein said requests for storage are transmitted as a series of packets, each packet comprising a portion of the request for storage, wherein each packet comprises a packet sequence number, wherein said packets comprising a similar request for storage are linked together using a request~~

~~identifier and a packet sequence number, and wherein each request for storage comprises a unique request identifier that is shared among said packets comprising said similar request; and transmitting, by said store computers, response packets to said communication virtualizer, wherein each of said response packets identifies said client computer~~

wherein said request is transmitted as a series of standard Ethernet packets, each packet comprising a portion of the request for storage, and said data size for said series of standard Ethernet packets exceeds that of said maximum size supported by said NFS protocol,

wherein said packets comprising a similar request for storage are linked together using a request identifier and a packet sequence number and,

wherein each request for storage comprises a unique request identifier that is shared among said packets comprising said similar request;

connecting said plurality of communication virtualizers with said plurality of network-attached store computers via an internal network of connection nodes;

providing a network-attached store service according to a Network File System protocol;

connecting said internal communications network to a plurality of communication network adapters; and

connecting said plurality of network storage adapters to said internal storage network,

wherein said one of said communication virtualizers, upon receiving said request from said one of said plurality of client computers, transmits said request for storage to a chosen network-attached store computer based on a capability of said chosen network-attached store computer to properly process said request for storage;

facilitating direct communication between said network-attached store computers and said client computer via a plurality of external connection paths,

wherein said plurality of virtualizers implement communications translation between said plurality of client computers accessing said plurality of network-attached store computers, and

wherein said communications translation comprises any of:

translation from one network-attached store protocol to a different network-attached store protocol;

translation from a connection-oriented network attached store protocol to a packet-oriented network-attached store protocol; and
translation from a packet-oriented network-attached store protocol to a connection-oriented network-attached store protocol.

13-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of network-attached store ~~computer~~ computers is configured for:

receiving said ~~requests~~ request for storage from said one of said communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers;
processing said request for storage;
creating a corresponding response to said request for storage;
packetizing said corresponding response; and
sending said corresponding response to said one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein each of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers is configured for:

receiving said corresponding response from said one of said plurality of network-attached store ~~computer~~ computers;
determining a chosen client computer to which said corresponding response should be routed to; and
routing said corresponding response to a chosen client computer.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said chosen client computer is configured for:

receiving said corresponding response from said one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers;

de-packetizing said corresponding response; and
routing said corresponding response to an initiating application.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said packets are categorized from a zeroth (0th) packet to an *i*th packet.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers determines which of said plurality of network-attached store ~~computer~~ computers to transmit said request for storage to by examining said zeroth packet in said request.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[21]] 12, further comprising:
said one of said plurality of network-attached store ~~computer~~ computers sending a standard Ethernet packet to said one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers in reply to ~~a client computer~~ said request; and

said one of said plurality of communication ~~virtualizer~~ virtualizers dividing said standard Ethernet packet into a plurality of standard Ethernet packets to send to said one of said plurality of client ~~computer~~ computers as a response comprising multiple standard Ethernet packets.

23-28. (Canceled).